ICAR has a network of 567 Krishi Vigyan Kendras (KVK) in the country. The KVKs aim at assessment, refinement and demonstration of the agricultural technology/products, besides conducting training of farmers and extension personnel.

A Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Support to State Extension Programmes for Extension Reforms" was launched during 2005-06 and aims at making the extension system farmer-driven and farmer-accountable by way of new institutional arrangement in the from of Agricultural Technology Management Agency (ATMA). ATMA has active participation of farmers, farmer groups, NGOs, KVK, Panchayati Raj Institutions (PRIs) and other stakeholders operating at the district level and below. Over 90 lakh farmers have been benefited under the scheme since its implementation.

Decline in agricultural production

131. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the fact that the agricultural production of our country has come down due to various reasons; and

(b) if so, the proposals envisaged by Government to increase the agricultural production?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The agricultural production in the country has been increasing in the recent past. As compared to total production of 208.60 million tones during 2005-06 and 217.28 million tones during 2006-07, the production of foodgrains during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (3rd Advance Estimates) stood at 230.78 million tones and 229.85 million tones respectively.

In order to further increase the production of wheat, rice and pulses, the Government has introduced National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since November 2007. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Yojana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector has been launched.

In order to increase the production of cereals in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 are under implementation to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs.

In order to increase the production and productivity of oilseeds and pulses, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Scheme of Oilseeds, Pulses, Oil Palm and Maize" (ISOPOM) is being implemented since 01.04.2004.

To increase the production and productivity of sugarcane in the country, Government has been implementing a Centrally Sponsored Scheme of Sustainable Development of Sugarcane Based Cropping System (SUBACS) in different States subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture since April 2004.

A Technology Mission on Cotton is under implementation in the cotton growing States of the country since 2000-01 for increasing the productivity and production of cotton by focusing on increasing availability of cotton seeds, covering more area under hybrids, thrust for evolving area specific technology, popularization of integrated pest management, increasing efficient use of irrigation water, field demonstrations for transfer of technology to farmers and farmers' training.

Shortfall in agricultural production

132. SHRI N. BALAGANGA: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government is aware of the shortfall in agricultural production every year resulting in shortage of foodgrains in our country; and

(b) the steps/measures taken or proposed to be taken by Government to increase the agricultural production to meet the needs of our country?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF AGRICULTURE (PROF. K.V. THOMAS): (a) and (b) The agricultural production in the country has been increasing in the recent past. As compared to total production of 208.60 million tones during 2005-06 and 217.28 million tones during 2006-07, the estimated production of foodgrains during 2007-08 and 2008-09 (3rd Advance Estimates) stood at 230.78 million tones and 229.85 million tones respectively. As the estimated demand of foodgrains during 2008-09 is only 219.01 million tonnes against estimated production of 229.85 million tonnes, there is no shortage of foodgrains in the country.

In order to further increase the production of wheat, rice and pulses, the Government has introduced National Food Security Mission (NFSM) since November 2007. It aims at adding the production of rice by 10 million tonnes, wheat by 8 million tonnes and pulses by 2 million tonnes by the end of the Eleventh Plan, *i.e.*, by 2011-12 through area increase and productivity enhancement in targeted districts. Besides, the Rashtriya Krishi Vikas Youjana (RKVY) with an objective to incentivise the States to increase investment in agriculture and allied sector has been launched.

In order to increase the production of cereals in the country, a Centrally Sponsored Scheme "Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Rice Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Rice), Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Wheat Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Wheat) and Integrated Cereals Development Programme in Coarse Cereals Based Cropping Systems Areas (ICDP-Coarse Cereals)" subsumed under Macro Management Mode of Agriculture with effect from October 2000 are under implementation to provide more flexibility to States based on local needs.